

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-28 were previously pending. Through this Reply, claims 2-3, 9-10 and 19-20 have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1, 4-8, 11-18 and 21-28 remain pending. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 are independent.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate that claims 3, 10, and 20 are indicated to define allowable subject matter.

§ 103 REJECTION – TANAKA, ENOMOTO, JACOBSEN, UEDA

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-19 and 21-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,577,338) in view of Enomoto (JP 10-096619), in further view of Jacobsen et al. (USPN 6,677,936), and in further view of Ueda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,748,237).

As noted above, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 10, and 20 are indicated to define allowable subject matter. Claims 2-3, 9-10 and 19-20 have been canceled and the features thereof have been included in the independent

claims 1, 8 and 14, respectively. Therefore, independent claims 1, 8 and 14 are now allowable.

Further, independent claim 7 has been amended to include the feature of “wherein the predetermined amount of time can be zero” which has been indicated to be a distinguishing feature. Therefore, independent claim 7 is also allowable.

Claims 4-6, 11-13, 15-18 and 21-28 depend from independent claims 1, 7, 8 or 14 directly or indirectly. Therefore, for at least the reasons stated above with respect to the independent claims, these dependent claims are also allowable.

Applicants respectfully that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-19 and 21-28 based on Tanaka, Enomoto, Jacobsen, and Ueda be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Final Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

U.S. Application No. 09/447,430
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Reply filed August 22, 2005
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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